

Remarks

Applicants' undersigned representative again would like to express his appreciation for the interview kindly extended by the Examiner on June 12, 2003. During the interview, the Examiner indicated the rejection would be overcome if step (d) of claim 1 were amended to recite "applying in a wet state a covering layer of fibre material containing melamine resin onto said pre-treated paper". The Examiner acknowledged that according to his combination of Baranyi and Watson, the covering layer is dry when applied to a pre-treated paper layer.

Claim 1 is herein being amended as above noted. In addition, a request for continued examination is being filed concurrently herewith to secure entry of the amendment. Accordingly, the previously advanced rejection is now moot.

This paper and the accompanying request for continued examination are being timely submitted as the deadline for filing an appeal brief in the subject application is today, July 23, 2003.

In view of the foregoing, early issuance of a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By

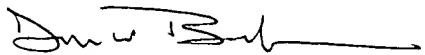

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: July 23, 2003


Don W. Bulson